

April 2, 2007

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 2, 2007 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Galvin.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Clouch, Galvin, Rische, Santome, Tsao, and Chairperson Lewis.

Absent: Commissioner Ulrich.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan and Project Manager Sedadi.

MOTION: Chairperson Santome moved to grant Commissioner Ulrich an excused absence for the April 2, 2007 Traffic Commission meeting. Commissioner Clouch seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Tsao moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Santome seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 5, 2007

MOTION: Commissioner Rische moved for the approval of the March 5, 2007 Traffic Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Santome seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Ulrich).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

Dr. Sumie Imada, Nadine Circle, discussed Torrance Unified School District's (TUSD) Traffic Impact Analysis study as well as traffic concerns related to the relocation of Hull Middle School to Levy Center on 229th Place. She stated that residents of New Horizons wanted full closure on 229th Place by placing a barricade at the border of Levy Center and New Horizons. She stated that crosswalks and crossing guards would be necessary to ensure the safety of students and senior citizens as well as speed limit and school signs installed along 229th Place, Nadine Circle, and Madison Street. She further discussed the need for a one-way, left-turn only, circular route for parents to drop off their students in front of the school.

Charles Browning, Madison Street, asked that staff monitor traffic circulation in the area of Levy Center before school begins, particularly on Madison Street. He questioned which way cars would be able to turn traveling eastbound on Lomita Boulevard. He recommended the installation of a crosswalk and stop sign at its original location in order to slow traffic going down Madison Street before reaching 229th Place. He expressed concern that barriers would be opened up on Madison Street and Samuel Street so that buses coming from Lomita Boulevard could go north on Madison Street and turn right onto 229th Place. He commended Torrance Police Department traffic enforcement officers.

John Sanders, Madison Street, expressed concern about the removal of barriers on Madison Street and Samuel Street, and questioned if the projected 28 cars making a right turn onto Madison Street, as cited in the study, was an accurate number. He noted that, if the barriers were opened up, there would be a considerable increase in traffic going in both directions on a narrow street.

Chairperson Lewis provided clarification that the Traffic Commission has not received or reviewed the traffic study.

Transportation Manager Semaan stated that the Traffic Impact Analysis was prepared by consultants and approved at the March 26, 2007 Torrance Unified School District Board meeting, noting that his office did not receive a full copy of the study until April 2, 2007. He explained that TUSD was a separate entity that works independently of the City and that staff is still internally discussing how to address the situation.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7A. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Commissioner Tsao nominated Commissioner Santome for Chairperson of the Traffic Commission, effective May 7, 2007. A roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Ulrich and with Commissioner Santome abstaining).

Commissioner Tsao nominated Commissioner Ulrich for Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Commission, effective May 7, 2007. A roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Ulrich).

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. RESPONSES TO PRIOR COMMISSION ORALS

In response to Commissioner Tsao's request at the March 5, 2007 Commission meeting, Transportation Manager Semaan provided an update on issues raised under Orals at previous Commission meetings.

Referring to the March 6, 2006 inquiry regarding Skypark Drive at Hawthorne Boulevard, Transportation Manager Semaan advised that the consultant has submitted a second plan check to Caltrans for improvements at the intersection.

Referring to Newt Young's inquiry at the March 6, 2006 meeting regarding street sweeping on Hickory Avenue and 227th Street, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that the item was referred to the Public Works Department.

Transportation Manager Semaan stated that, in response to Commissioner Clouch's inquiry, Caltrans has been notified about visibility concerns on Western Avenue near 235th Street.

He advised that Public Works has been notified regarding the possibility of implementing left-turn phasing on Skypark Drive and Madison Street.

Referring to Commissioner Ulrich's inquiry at the October 2, 2006 meeting, Transportation Manager Semaan advised that a field check was conducted and that there was no evidence of a misplaced school zone sign on Newton Street.

In response to Commissioner Tsao's inquiry at the October 2, 2006 meeting regarding the installation of a yield sign at Abalone and 214th Street, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that the item was referred to the Public Works Department and that a stop sign will be installed on 214th Street.

8b. Transportation Manager Semaan announced the 2007 City Traffic Engineers (CTE) Association's 2007 Traffic Commissioners Workshop on April 21, 2007 in the City of Pomona.

8c. Transportation Manager Semaan informed audience members that they would be informed about future hearings regarding the Hull Middle School relocation.

8d. Commissioner Santome expressed interest in attending future TUSD Board meetings to voice concerns.

In response to Commissioner Santome's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan explained that TUSD did not need to go to the City for conditional approval and that they are governed by the State's Architect's Office. He noted that the Community Development Department and TUSD have a very good working relationship.

Responding to Commissioner Rische's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan speculated that TUSD hired its own consultants to conduct a traffic study based on advice from their attorney.

Chairperson Lewis received clarification from staff that TUSD could not make changes on surrounding streets without approval from the City.

Commissioner Clouch stated that he attended the March 26, 2007 TUSD Board meeting and that they demonstrated to him that they are not concerned about traffic around New Horizons and off of Lomita Boulevard. He expressed concern about potential traffic and parking problems at Hull Middle School.

8e. Commissioner Clouch initiated a brief discussion about opening the Fire Department control gate on Walnut Street to allow more than one entry into Knoll's Trailer Park.

8f. Responding to Commissioner Clouch's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan explained that the City has resources to make capital improvements and that enhancements, such as a left turn signal at 182nd Street and Van Ness Avenue, are considered as funding becomes available, with priority allocation based on delay at the intersection and safety needs.

8g. In response to Chairperson Lewis' inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan discussed problems involved with the City taking over Hawthorne Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway from Caltrans. He explained that it was a question of how much funding it would require to bring those streets up to Torrance standards.

8h. Commissioner Galvin expressed concern that police reports are not prepared for many traffic accidents and that it was difficult for the Commission to have valid information to make decisions and recommendations.

8i. Commissioner Tsao thanked staff for responding to his request for updates on comments under Orals. He suggested that staff utilize PowerPoint and Internet maps when making presentations.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:56 p.m., Chairperson Lewis adjourned the meeting to May 7, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room.

Approved as Submitted May 7, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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